

Date: 4 May 1983
Interview with: James Ray Singleton ✓
Interviewed by: T. Welliver
Place: 1655 Foster St., Evanston
Observations: Interview took place at meeting of Senior Citizens' Club.

Q. Were you born in Evanston?

A. No, I came here from Missouri in 1927. I was born and raised in Armstrong Missouri.

Q. Did you come with your parents?

A. No, I came here on my own.

Q. When were you born?

A. In 1898.

Q. Why did you come to Evanston?

A. My sisters and brothers were here.

Q. Where did you work when you first got here?

A. I worked for the Chicago Northwestern Railroad, in mail and baggage.

Q. How much did you make there?

A. I made \$37 every two weeks; I was paid two times a month.

Q. Is that the only place you worked?

A. Yes, I worked there until I retired in 1963 or 1964.

Q. Were you ever in the service?

A. I was in World War I, but I was drafted late. I was waiting on the platform and the whistle blew--they had ended the war! I didn't have to go in World War II.

Q. Where did you live when you came to Evanston?

A. I lived with my sister on Clark St., where the parking lot is now.

Q. I heard that they moved the houses out of there when they built the parking lot.

A. Yes, they moved some houses when they built Wieboldt's. The company bought them. Some of them were just little shacks--they moved the good houses, and they paid to move them.

Q. Where did you live after that?

A. I lived in South Evanston, then on Chicago Ave. After that I bought a house over on the West Side, at 1910 Dewey. That's where I lived when I got married.

Q. When did you move there?

A. Around 1935. That house burned down in 1978. Now I'm living down at Primm Towers.

(the discussion then turned to life in Missouri when Mr. Singleton was a young man).

